

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A processor-based method for producing a message during a speech recognition application comprising:

retrieving an identified path from a set of paths;

retrieving an identified option from a set of options associated with the identified path;

concatenating the identified path and the identified option to form a selection path; and

producing a message associated with the selection path.

2. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 1 wherein said identified path is retrieved without executing a general assistance command for describing to a user all available paths.

3. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 1 wherein said identified path is retrieved without having described to a user any paths from the set of paths other than the identified path.

4. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 1 additionally comprising continually monitoring the identified path to insure that the identified option is associated with the identified path.

5. (original) A message produced in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

6. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:

retrieving an identified path from a set of paths;

retrieving an identified option from a set of options associated with the identified path;

concatenating the identified path and the identified option to form a selection path; and

producing a message associated with the selection path.

7. (currently amended) A speech recognition system comprising:

an application;

an assistance manager for forming a selection path and for finding a message associated with the selection path;

a vocabulary accessible by the application and the assistance manager and including a set of utterances applicable to the application; and

a speech recognition engine to recognize the utterances.

8. (original) The speech recognition system of Claim 7 additionally comprising a converter.

9. (original) The speech recognition system of Claim 7 wherein said vocabulary additionally includes at least one hot key word.

10. (original) The speech recognition system of Claim 7 additionally comprising a dialog manager.

11. (original) The speech recognition system of Claim 8 additionally comprising a dialog manager.

12. (original) An operating system incorporating the speech recognition system of Claim 7.

13. (original) A computing device incorporating the speech recognition system of Claim 7.

14. (currently amended) A system for finding a message during a speech recognition application comprising:

- an application;
- a vocabulary accessible by the application and including a set of utterances applicable to the application;
- a speech recognition engine to recognize the utterances; and
- ~~means~~ an assistance manager for forming a selection path and for finding a message associated with the selection path during a speech recognition application.

15. (original) The system of Claim 14 additionally comprising a converter.

16. (original) The system of Claim 14 additionally comprising a dialog manager.

17. (original) The system of Claim 15 additionally comprising a dialog manager.

18. (currently amended) A processor-based method for providing assistance in a speech recognition application, comprising:

- creating a speech dialog for enabling a conversation to be conducted in a speech recognition application between a user and a speech recognition system;
- providing support for an interrupt event during a conversation between a user and a speech recognition system;
- creating a selection path corresponding the support for the interrupt event initiated by the user without describing to the user all available paths;
- creating a message for the selection path; and
- interrupting a conversation between a user and a speech recognition system for providing assistance to the user.

19. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 18 wherein said interrupt event comprises a hot key word.

20. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 18 wherein said interrupting the conversation comprises interrupting the conversation with the interrupt event.

21. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 19 wherein said interrupting the conversation comprises uttering the hot key word by the user.

22. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 18 wherein said interrupting a conversation comprises activating an assistance manager.

23. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 18 additionally comprising:

retrieving an identified path from a set of paths;

retrieving an identified option from a set of options associated with the identified path;

concatenating the identified path and the identified option to form the selection path; and

producing the message associated with the selection path for providing assistance to the user.

24. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 23 wherein said identified path is retrieved without executing a general assistance command for describing to the user all available paths.

25. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 23 wherein said identified path is retrieved without having described to the user any paths from the set of paths, other than the identified path.

26. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 18 wherein said interrupting a conversation comprises activating an assistance manager for finding the selection path and for producing the message for the selection path.

27. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 19 wherein said interrupting the conversation comprises uttering by the user the hot key word along with a user-selective topic.

28. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 27 wherein said user-selective topic is selected from a group of topics consisting of an active path and an option.

29. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 28 wherein said selection path comprises said user-selective topic.

30. (original) The processor-based method of Claim 28 wherein said selection path comprises said active path.